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SUBJECT: FATA AND NWFP: BI-WEEKLY INCIDENTS OF TALIBANIZATION: JUNE
16-30

REF: A) ISLAMABAD 2226, B) PESHAWAR 379, C) PESHAWAR 376

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REASON: 1.4 (a), (b), (d)

Introduction:

1. (C) A brief period of detente between GOP officials and militants was disrupted in late June as militant activity surged in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP). A deteriorating security situation in Khyber agency including the kidnapping in Peshawar of 32 Christians by Lashkar-i-Islam activists (ref. A), increasing threats to shipping personnel, attacks on trucks and the abduction of 17 local security personnel led to a Frontier Corps operation in the Bara area ostensibly aimed at eliminating criminal elements (refs. B and C).

2. (C) Militants loyal to Baitullah Mehsud briefly occupied the town of Jandola located on the South Waziristan/Tank border, attacked the home of a rival tribal elder deemed to be "pro-government" and kidnapped 31 Bhattani elders. Mehsud's men later executed at least 23 of the elders. Local observers fear that Baitullah Mehsud's brazen act may intimidate other tribal elders from speaking out against Tehrik-i-Taliban. In Bajaur, militants stormed a girls' school and renamed it "Jamia Hafsa," in honor of the girls' school that was destroyed during the Red Mosque incident. Bajaur militants also publicly executed two men accused of spying for the United States and established a shelter for the children of slain taliban fighters.

3. (C) Sectarian violence continues in Kurram agency and was highlighted by an attack on a convoy carrying food supplies that initially left four drivers dead. The mutilated bodies of eight other drivers who were abducted during the attack were later found in lower Kurram. Militants in Orakzai continued to step up their efforts by occupying two girls' schools and executing six "criminals" after finding them guilty of kidnapping. Local observers report that "taliban" members in Orakzai are becoming more visible everyday.

4. (C) The security situation in the NWFP's Kohat district is rapidly deteriorating as militants attacked several CD shops, displayed notices warning women to stay indoors and men to avoid NGOs and even intimidated cable television companies into shutting off their "obscene" transmissions. Violence has also spread to Malakand district as CD shops were attacked three times in the last two weeks of June. Militants attacked a mosque and a police patrol in Dera Ismail Khan. As militant

activity heats up again throughout Pakistan's northwest, GOP officials also appear to be stepping up their efforts to maintain order. It is still too early to tell, however, whether the GOP will be able to balance military operations in Khyber with their peace agreements strategy. End Introduction.

Swat: Peace Agreement Tested

15. (C) While NWFP officials maintain that the May 21 peace agreement is still intact, there are already visible cracks in the accord. Militants and GOP security forces clashed at least four times in Swat's Matta and Kabal areas leaving four security personnel and approximately 10 militants dead. During the last two weeks of June, militants also set fire to 13 girls' schools in the same areas. On June 29, militant spokesmen announced that peace talks with the GOP were "suspended" due to the commencement of operations in Khyber's Bara area. Although both militant and GOP representatives have not yet announced that the May 21 accord had been scrapped, local observers worry that the agreement is quickly losing value as violence in Swat continues to escalate. The following is a timeline of the conflict's major events according to local press and post contacts through June 30:

June 16: Police recovered at least 300 kilograms of explosive material from a village near Mingora after being tipped off by an informant. The suspected owner of the material eluded police during the raid.

June 21: Alleged militants publicly whipped a man in Peochar, located 25 kilometers north of Mingora, after a "Shari'a" court found him guilty of lying.

June 24: One paramilitary soldier and nine militants were killed and 14 others were injured during clashes in Swat's Matta area. Local journals reported that a movement by Pakistani security forces had been misinterpreted by militants and had led to the clashes.

June 25: Militants attacked a security checkpoint in the Kabal area, located approximately 7 kilometers northwest of Mingora, killing one soldier and injuring three others. At least ten public girls' schools were reportedly set on fire in different areas of Matta on the same day. Muslim Khan, a spokesman for Tehrik-i-Taliban, Swat warned of a "bloodbath" in Swat if security forces continued to challenge the "might of the Taliban."

June 26: Alleged militants set fire to the Malam Jabba ski resort built in collaboration with the government of Austria. Militants later attacked another security checkpoint in Matta and killed three family members of a local political leader.

June 27: Two more girls' schools were set on fire in the Kabal area. No injuries were reported. Militants later attacked a vacant police post in the same area.

June 28: Alleged militants shot and killed four members of a family and set fire to satellite television equipment and a nearby barbershop. Police later recovered three large bombs from a school in Matta.

June 29: Six people, including two security personnel, were killed and several others were injured in the Matta area when militants attacked a security patrol with a remote controlled bomb. Militant spokesman Muslim Khan later announced that peace talks had been "suspended" on the command of Baitullah Mehsud.

June 30: Militants reportedly burned down another girls' school in the Kabal area, though no injuries were reported.

NWFP

16. (SBU) The following incidents have occurred in the Provincially Administered Tribal Areas (PATA) and settled areas of the NWFP:

June 16, Dera Ismail Khan: Four people, including a child, were reportedly killed and three others were injured when an explosive device was thrown into a mosque during evening prayers.

June 16, Peshawar: Armed men claiming to be associated with Mangal Bagh's Lashkar-i-Islam group visited Peshawar's Nauthia area (located approximately three kilometers from the consulate) and warned CD shopkeepers to close their "obscene" businesses.

June 16-17, Tank: Militants reportedly attacked the Manjikhel police post located on the Tank-Dera Ismail Khan road on June 16, but did not cause any injuries. Security forces responded the following day by demolishing the house of an alleged militant and arresting three other militants during search operations.

June 17, Kohat: Suspected militants posted leaflets in Bilitang (located 22 kilometers east of Kohat City) demanding that women and girls wear veils when attending school and that they are accompanied by male relatives when venturing outside of their homes.

June 17, Peshawar: A local press report stated that four police sub-districts in Peshawar's troubled Mattani, Badabher, Mathra and Sarband suburbs have an insufficient number of officers as well as a shortage of equipment. According to the report, Mattani's 84 constables lack bullet-proof vests and have only two vehicles to patrol the Peshawar/Darra Adamkhel boundary. Mattani's police stations have reportedly been attacked more than 20 times in the last two years.

June 18, Malakand: A bomb explosion destroyed four CD shops in the Batkhela area, though no injuries were reported.

June 20, Peshawar: Lashkar-i-Islam activists reportedly threatened several CD, video and barber shops in Peshawar's cantonment area. Militants also visited a shrine in the same area and warned people to avoid taking part in religious ceremonies there.

June 21, Battagram: The District Coordination Officer (DCO - a district's senior administrative official) for Battagram reportedly issued a directive instructing NGOs operating in the earthquake-affected parts of the district to withdraw all female staff members. The directive came after the DCO received a letter threatening suicide bombings and targeted killings if female workers did not leave their workplaces.

June 21, Kohat: Two CD shops were destroyed and 16 others were damaged when a bomb exploded in the Shakardarra bazaar in Kohat City. No injuries were reported in the late night explosion.

June 21-23, Peshawar: Unidentified men kidnapped an estimated 25-32 Christian men and boys and later released them on June 22 (ref. A). Mangal Bagh's Lashkar-i-Islam organization later apologized for the kidnapping and described it as a "misunderstanding."

June 22, Kohat: At least two people were injured when alleged militants threw a grenade at a music store in the Tirah bazaar. Cable television providers later suspended their operations throughout Kohat district after having received a number of threatening letters and phone calls from local militants. Cable company representatives told local newspapers that they had ceased operations because the government had failed to provide them sufficient security.

June 22, Malakand: A security guard was killed and two other people were injured when a bomb exploded in front of a CD store in a prominent Batkhela bazaar.

June 22, Mardan: A bomb reportedly exploded in a movie theater, but did not cause any injuries as the theater was vacant at the time.

June 23-27, Kohat: Militants who had earlier banned cable television service in Kohat, allowed the airing of 13 channels,

but maintained a ban on BBC, CNN and Fox News. On June 27, militants allowed another 12 stations to recommence broadcasting. Cable companies maintained the ban on Indian and Pakistani entertainment channels as well as English language movie stations.

June 23, Malakand: Another bomb exploded in Batkhela, killing one person and injuring two others.

June 27, Hangu: Alleged militants abducted three people, including two government officials near Doaba.

June 28, Peshawar: A bomb explosion destroyed a barber shop in Peshawar's Achani Chawk Nazirabad area without causing any injuries.

June 29, Hangu: Nine employees of Hangu's water management department were kidnapped near Doaba. Local press speculated that sectarian motives were behind the abductions.

June 29, Kohat: Tehrik-i-Taliban posted notices on mosques throughout Kohat asking people to refrain from engaging in the "un-Islamic" practices of listening to music, watching television, gambling and shaving beards. The letter also stated that "schools and offices coordinating with NGOs or functioning under them are enemies of the Qur'an and Islam. They are preaching Christianity to destroy the believers. All the people are informed to avoid all such activities within a week or else action would be taken against them."

FATA

17. (SBU) The following is a roundup of incidents of Talibanization in the FATA's tribal agencies and frontier regions:

June 16, FR Kohat: Suspected militants killed a tribal elder who had been kidnapped from Darra Adamkhel on June 13 after accusing him of espionage.

June 16, Khyber: Two Lashkar-i-Islam members and a bystander were reportedly injured when a bomb fitted to a van exploded in the Bara area.

June 18-19, Khyber: According to consulate personnel, a warning letter was found pasted on containers, fuel tankers and a post office in Landi Kotal warning vendors to stop supplies to U.S./NATO forces in Afghanistan. The notice further stated that anyone dealing with "the Americans" could be killed. A trailer carrying an empty container, returning from Torkham to Peshawar was fired upon at Ali Masjid (approximately 20 kilometers from the border). The driver escaped unharmed.

June 18, Kurram: Ongoing sectarian violence left another three people dead and seven others injured in Shalozan, located 20 kilometers northwest of Parachinar.

June 19, Bajaur: A bomb explosion destroyed a barber shop in the Atmal Khel area. No injuries were reported.

June 19, Kurram: Armed men attacked a convoy of 24 trucks carrying food supplies near Sadda, killing four drivers. The assailants then set fire to the trucks. Security forces, reportedly backed up by helicopters, retaliated, killing three alleged militants and injuring approximately 30 others. The mutilated bodies of eight drivers, who were abducted during the attack, were later found in lower Kurram on June 23.

June 20, Kurram: 15 people, including two paramilitary soldiers, were injured in continued clashes following an attack on a security post near Sadda.

June 21-22, Khyber: Fighting erupted on June 21 between Mangal Bagh's Lashkar-i-Islam (LI) organization and supporters of the rival Ansar-ul Islam in Khyber's Tirah Valley after LI activists attacked an Ansar-ul Islam "stronghold." At least five men were injured in the fighting. Clashes continued on June 22,

reportedly leaving 15 people dead and dozens of others wounded.

June 21, Orakzai: Militants reportedly occupied two girls' schools and ordered teachers and other staff members to vacate the buildings.

June 22, Khyber: A suspected suicide bomber reportedly eluded capture by Khassadar and Frontier Corps forces and handed himself over to a militant organization in Khyber's Bara subdivision.

June 23, Khyber: Armed men attacked three checkpoints on the main Peshawar-Torkham highway and abducted 17 Khassadars from their posts.

June 23, Khyber: Militants visited the homes of several truckers and told them to quit their jobs at the Torkham border crossing point or be "ready to face the consequences." All three men later resigned.

June 23, Mohmand: Alleged militants posted a notice on the walls of several major towns prohibiting women from working outside of the home, attending weddings and other functions, leaving the home without a veil and visiting a doctor without a male family member.

June 23, North Waziristan: Residents in a Miramshah village appealed to local militants to end electricity shortages.

June 23-24, FR Tank: At least nine people were killed when militants loyal to Baitullah Mehsud clashed with Bhattani tribesmen in Jandola. The militants had attempted to attack the home of a tribal elder who had challenged Baitullah Mehsud's writ in the area. Mehsud's men occupied the city's main bazaar following the attacks. Newspapers reported on June 24 that tanks, armored personnel carriers, and helicopters had arrived in the area to restore order.

June 24, FR Kohat: Militants reportedly killed a criminal and dumped his body in a large bazaar in Darra Adamkhel. Militants later paraded three men accused of carjacking in the same bazaar.

June 24, Orakzai: Tehrik-i-Taliban's Orakzai chapter shot and killed six alleged criminals after a council of "taliban" found them guilty of murder and kidnapping. The bodies of the men were later dumped in a bazaar.

June 25, Bajaur: Militants reportedly seized a public girls' school, and renamed it "Jamia Hafsa," after the girls' seminary which was connected to Islamabad's Red Mosque. Militant leader Qari Naimatullah led the offensive and warned that his group would convert other schools in Bajaur into religious seminaries.

June 25-27, FR Tank: Tehrik-i-Taliban militants reportedly executed at least 23 members of a peace committee consisting of Bhattani tribal elders after they were kidnapped on June 23. Militant spokesmen claimed that the men had been killed for their criminal activities as well as their close ties to the GOP. The remaining eight elders who had been abducted on June 23 were released by Baitullah Mehsud on June 27. (Note: The Bhattani tribe controls the area between district Tank and South Waziristan agency. End note.)

June 25, Orakzai: A team of USAID contractors traveled to upper Orakzai to visit project locations. The team was accompanied by two Khassadars and local tribal elders. As the team was returning to Hangu, a vehicle containing ten men armed with a rocket launcher and other weapons pursued the contractors, but eventually backed off. The contractors are now avoiding travel to upper Orakzai.

June 26, Bajaur: Tehrik-i-Taliban, Bajaur reportedly established a shelter for the children of slain militants.

June 27, Bajaur: Militants publicly executed two Afghan nationals in Damadola on charges of spying for the United States.

June 29, Khyber: Four children and their mother were killed in a

bomb explosion in the Tirah area of Khyber. Local press speculated that the explosion was part of an ongoing conflict between Lashkar-i-Islam and Ansar-ul Islam.

June 30, Kurram: Eight people, who were kidnapped on June 29 in Hangu, were found dead in lower Kurram with their hands tied behind their backs. According to the political administration, all eight men were criminals. Locals speculated, however, that the men were killed by militants.

June 30, Kurram: A convoy of Frontier Corps troops traveling from its base in Parachinar to the Pakistan/Afghanistan border was reportedly intercepted by local tribesmen who blocked the road and took approximately 30 soldiers into custody. A jirga of local elders has been dispatched to secure the release of the men who were reportedly captured due to a misunderstanding.

June 30, North Waziristan: Militant leaders Mullah Nazir and Hafiz Gul Bahadur reportedly agreed to join forces against NATO troops in Afghanistan. Bahadur was nominated as the group's "amir" and militant commander Mufti Abu Haroon was selected to be the joint group's spokesperson.

June 30, South Waziristan: Alleged militants distributed pamphlets in Wana accusing four journalists of engaging in "negative journalism against the Taliban." The letter warned that the men would be killed if they continued their reporting activities.

Government Response

18. (SBU) This is a summary of government responses to "creeping Talibanization" according to press and consulate contacts:

June 21, Peshawar: NWFP Inspector General of Police Malik Naveed announced the creation of a community police force. Men between the ages of 18 to 25 would liaise with police officials to provide information about criminal activity and would be available to respond to natural disasters. Community police members would also, with permission of local police officials, carry out patrols, maintain their own firearms, and respond to emergencies in their areas.

June 24, Mansehra: Police arrested three people accused of sending threatening letters to both domestic and international NGOs.

June 26, Kurram: Authorities claim to have arrested 14 tribesmen suspected of involvement in the June 19 attack on a convoy carrying food supplies. Kurram's political administration also reportedly demolished 12 houses.

June 28, Tank: Police officials accepted a complaint alleging that a Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam, Fazlur Rehman (JUI-F)-run madrassa trained young girls as suicide bombers. Tehrik-i-Taliban spokesman Maulvi Omar later announced that his organization is "giving training to girls and women for suicide bombings, and for this the consent of their parents is necessary."

June 28-30, Khyber: Frontier Corps launched operations in Khyber agency's Bara area ostensibly aimed at denying safe haven to criminal gangs such as Mangal Bagh's Lashkar-i-Islam (see refs. B and C for additional details).

June 29, Peshawar: The GOP placed an official ban on Mangal Bagh's Lashkar-i-Islam, Maulvi Mehboob's Ansar-ul Islam, and Hajji Namdar's criminal organization.

June 30, Peshawar: Capital City Police Officer Dr. Suleman announced that Peshawar police had taken extraordinary security measures within the city in light of the ongoing operations in Khyber agency. He said that police presence at key locations has been strengthened and officers have conducted several preemptive raids throughout the district. Suleman stated that 25 platoons of Frontier Constabulary officers had been deployed to Hayatabad to prevent militant spillover from Khyber agency.

Grass Roots Efforts to Halt Talibanization

¶9. (SBU) The following events are examples of activities taken by local communities to halt the spread of Talibanization:

June 27, Peshawar: After receiving threatening letters from Lashkar-i-Islam, residents in Peshawar's Hazarkhwani area formulated a plan for self defense that included establishing private night patrols.

June 28, FR Kohat: Tribesmen in Darra Adamkhel took up arms and threatened local militants after "taliban" raided the home of a local tribal elder, Malik Wali Mohammad.

VIA